

## **Medicaid-to-Medicare Transition Successfully Completed, But Lawsuit Confuses Recipients**

The Medicaid-to-Medicare transition was successfully completed on October 1 for 50,000 PLAD beneficiaries – until a lawsuit was filed that created confusion for recipients. A federal judge issued a Temporary Restraining Order on October 1 because of questions raised about the original PLAD notification letter authorized by the Attorney General. Recipients will now be notified by the Division of Medicaid that they will be back on Medicaid temporarily until the Judge conducts a full hearing on the matter.

The opposition groups filing the lawsuit include liberal advocacy organizations based in Washington, D.C. Nowhere in their lawsuit do they include suggestions as to where Mississippi legislators can find \$100 million over the next two years to keep PLAD coverage available.

Until the lawsuit, all aspects of the transition were completed – federal waivers were granted; the Division of Medicaid contacted all PLAD recipients to help them enroll in alternative health care coverage; \$100 million was in the process of being saved for Mississippi's cash-strapped Medicaid program; and a DOM study confirmed that 75% of

the PLAD population would pay no more than they did on Medicaid after the transition.

The Division of Medicaid is working to notify recipients and providers about the temporary shift back to Medicaid. Any questions concerning the future of the lawsuit should be directed to the Attorney General's Office at 359-3680.